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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-seventh session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
30 June - 5 July 2003

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: International assistance requests

CORRIGENDUM

REQUEST N°2
Preparatory Assistance
Mixed heritage
Africa

State Party: Kenya

**Name of the activity: Second International Expert Meeting on Great
Rift Valley**

Paragraph 1 of the section "Comments of the Advisory Bodies" has been replaced in the above-mentioned International Assistance request.

REQUEST N° 2
Preparatory Assistance
Mixed heritage
Africa

State Party: KENYA

Status of dues to the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2002: US\$ 300 of outstanding dues

Name of Activity: Second International Expert Meeting on Great Rift Valley

Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund: US\$ 69,101

Previous contributions from the World Heritage Fund for this site:

- Preparatory Assistance (2000), US\$30,000
- Preparatory Assistance (2002), US\$15,000

Background:

Following a number of nominations from the Great Rift Valley which have been deferred or referred, the First International Expert Meeting held at The Dead Sea, shores of Israel from 30 September to 4 October 2002 developed a conceptual framework for the Great Rift Valley aiming at: promoting the efforts being made by some States Parties to prepare nominations for sites located in the Great Rift Valley and the existence of many sites in the Great Rift Valley that are culturally and naturally rich, and that can provide opportunities to further the socio-economic standing of the communities involved; taking into account various relevant Conventions and Agreements linked directly or indirectly to the Rift Valley; recognizing the importance for strengthening partnerships among the States Parties concerned.

The First Expert Meeting resulted in a proposed Action Plan concerning the Great Rift Valley and a timetable which include: the production of the proceedings of the First Meeting; the submission of report and recommendations to the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee and the submission of the initial assistance request by State Party (Kenya) for the Second Expert Meeting; submission of recommendations to the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa; the holding of the Second Expert Meeting on the Great Rift Valley in Nairobi, Kenya; and States Parties meeting in connection with the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2004.

Objectives:

The main objectives are as follows:

1. Review the recommendations of the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Paris in 2003;
2. Define and refine a statement for submission to the Worlds Parks Congress in Durban;
3. Review progress in identification by States Parties of sites and progress in inventories for tentative listing and for eventual nomination; and a review on those already inscribed in view of enlarging buffer zones and re-nomination under different criteria;
4. Promotion of regional and international, regional, sub-regional and national partnerships for the protection of migratory species and for the Great Rift Valley;
5. Mainstreaming the Great Rift Valley in UNESCO programmes.

Project plan:

Participants:

* Countries on the Rift Valley such as: Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Rwanda, Syria, and Yemen Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Palestinian Authority;

* Advisory Bodies, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM;

* Organizations such as NEPAD, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), IGGAD, AMCEN, UNEP Conventions Coordination Unit, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on Biological Diversity, African Conventions on Nature Protection, etc.

Anticipated output:

Improve the tentative listing relating to the Great Rift Valley.

Total activity budget (in US\$):	84,101
Contribution from Kenya national commission for UNESCO (in US\$)	15,000
Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund (in US\$):	69,101
1. International Participants: 25 participants from 22 countries on the Rift Valley:	39,423
2. Participation of UNESCO Staff: 4 staff members (WHC-SC/ECO-SC/HYD)	12,812
3. Local Organization	14,213
4. Miscellaneous (booklet, publishing)	2,653

Comments of the Advisory Bodies:

1. IUCN made the following recommendation:

"IUCN recognized the importance of this initiative and will support the revised proposal conditional of: (a) that the State Party of Kenya invite to this activity not only experts but also key governmental representatives as to start promoting political support towards the further implementation of this initiative; (b) considering inviting representatives of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and BirdLife International due to their experience in the issues to be discussed; (c) IUCN consider inappropriate for the Advisory Bodies to provide any recommendation or statement (as proposed under point 3) on "aspects of justification and significance" as this could be interpreted as a prejudgment of any future nominations, and; (d) IUCN do not see the rationale for having a permanent Steering Committee and Secretariat for this initiative, this should be assumed by the WH Committee and the WH Centre".

2. ICOMOS sent provisional comments on 4 April; ICOMOS fully supports this request for preparatory assistance, but notes that the budget for this meeting seems to be expensive, and suggests that the Kenya National Commission give a more important financial support especially for administrative costs and for local organization. For these reasons ICOMOS suggests that the request be approved for the reduced overall amount of US\$ 50,000.

ICOMOS proposes that the duration of the meeting should not exceed 5 days.

Comments of the Secretariat:

The Secretariat fully supports the request and sees it as an important way of enforcing and promoting the concept of transboundaries nomination.

Action by the Committee: As this request is of interest for many countries in different regions, the Committee may wish to approve this request for an amount of **US\$ 69,101** though it is above the Preparatory Assistance ceiling of US\$ 30,000, under the condition that the State Party has paid its outstanding dues to the World Heritage Fund (US\$ 300) by the time of the 27th Committee session.